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Parliament-Street, March 27, 1797.

EARLY this Morning Captain Drew, of the 45th Regiment, arrived from the Iſland of Trinidad, with a Diſpatch from Lieutenant-General Sir R. Abercromby, K. B. to the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, of which the following is a Copy.

Head Quarters, Trinidad,
February 27, 1797.

SIR,

ON my Arrival in this Country, I did not fail to lay before the Admiral my Inſtructions, and to conſult with him upon the Means to carry them into Execution. I found in him every Deſire to co-operate in the Execution of the Views to which they are directed. The Arrival of Part of the Convoy from England enabled us to proceed with Confidence in our Operations; therefore, as ſoon as the Troops could be collected from the different Iſlands, which were ordered to rendezvous at Cariacou, the Admiral ſailed from Martinique, which Iſland he left with his Squadron on the 12th Inſtant.

The Preciſion with which the Admiral had given his Orders to aſſemble the Ships of War and Tranſports, left us not a Moment of Delay. On the 15th, in the Morning, the Fleet ſailed from Cariacou. On the 16th, in the Afternoon, it paſſed through the Bocas, or Entrance into the Gulph of Paria, where we found the Spaniſh Admiral with Four Sail of the Line and a Frigate, at Anchor, under Cover of the Iſland of Gaſpargrande, which was fortified.

Our Squadron worked up, and came to Anchor oppoſite to, and nearly within Gunſhot of the Spaniſh Ships, The Frigates and Tranſports were ordered to anchor higher up in the Bay, and at the Diſtance nearly of Five Miles from the Town of Port D'Eſpagne. The Diſpoſition was immediately made for Landing at Day-light next Morning, and for a general Attack upon the Town and Ships of War.

At Two o'Clock in the Moruing of the 17th we perceived the Spaniſh Squadron to be on Fire; the Ships burnt with great Fury, One Line of Battle Ship excepted, which eſcaped the Conflagration, and was taken Poſſeſſion of at Day-Light in the Morning, by the Boats from our Fleet; the Enemy at the ſame Time evacuated the Iſland, and abandoned that Quarter.

This unexpected Turn of Affairs directed our whole Attention to the Attack of the Town. The Troops were immediately ordered to land, and, as ſoon as a few Hundred Men could be got on Shore, about Four Miles to the Weſtward of it, we advanced, meeting with little or no Reſiſtance. Before Night we were Maſters of Port D'Eſpagne and the Neighbourhood, Two ſmall Forts excepted. In the Morning a Capitulation was entered into with the Governor Don Chacon, and in the Evening all the Spaniſh Troops laid down their Arms, and the whole Colony paſſed under the Dominion of His Britannick Majeſty.

Copies of the Capitulation, of the Stores and Proviſions taken, are herewith tranſmitted.

It is a peculiar Satisfaction to me that there is no Liſt of Killed or Wounded; Lieutenant Villeneuve, of the 8th Regiment of Foot, who was Brigade Major to Brigadier-General Hompeſch, being the only Perſon who was wounded, and he is ſince dead of his Wounds.

From the Admiral I have experienced every poſſible Co-operation. Captain Woolley, of His Majeſty's Ship the Arethuſa, and Captain Wood, of the Favorite Sloop of War, who had been ſent to reconnoitre in the Gulph of Paria, afforded us minute Information of the Situation of the Enemy previous to our Arrival. Captain Woolley, who directed the Diſembarkation, ſhewed all the Zeal and Intelligence which I have experienced from him on former Occaſions. To Lord Craven, who begged to attend the Expedition, I am indebted for great Zeal and Exertion.

Lieutenant-Colonel Soter, who is intimately acquainted with this Country, has been, and continues to be, of very great Uſe to me. I ſhould not do Juſtice to his general Character, if I did not take this Opportunity to expreſs it. My Aide-de-Camp,

Captain

[Price Four-pence Halfpenny.]